Dropout Prevention

Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
Office of Public Instruction
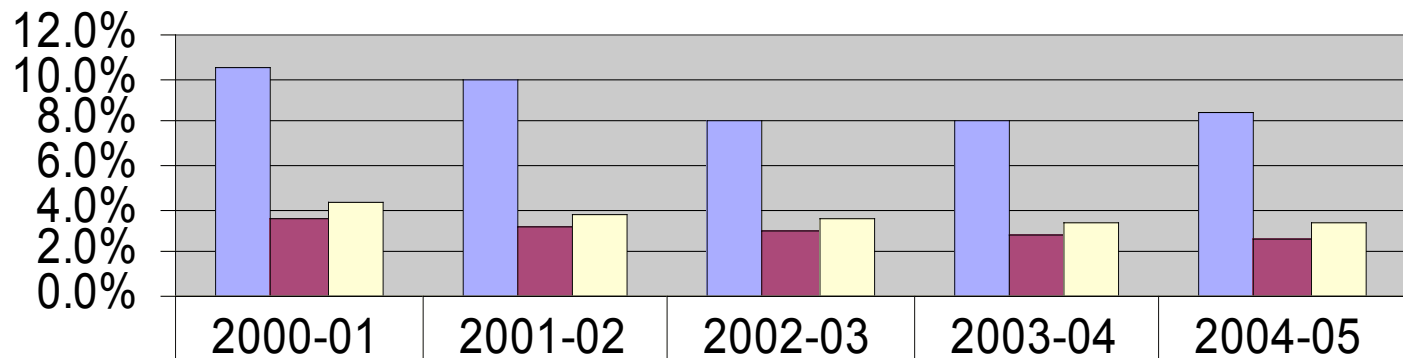
Education and Local Government Interim Committee

August 17-18, 2006

Helena, MT

OPI **Montana Office of Public Instruction**
Linda McCulloch Superintendent   www.opi.mt.gov

Dropout Rates

Dropout Rates for Select Race/Ethnicity Categories for Grades 9-12 - 2000-01 to 2004-05

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
■ American Indian	10.4%	10.0%	8.1%	8.1%	8.4%
■ White	3.5%	3.1%	3.1%	2.8%	2.7%
□ Statewide	4.2%	3.8%	3.6%	3.4%	3.3%

OPI Montana Office of Public Instruction
Linda McCulloch Superintendent   www.opi.mt.gov

2002-2005 American Indian Dropout Prevention Grant

- Funded through a grant awarded to the OPI by the U.S. Department of Education.

- Grant recipients: Box Elder, Rocky Boy, Browning, Heart Butte, Lame Deer, and Poplar

- Each site received a $40,000 grant each year fro 3 years, with the exception of Poplar who received $10,000 plus a separate federal grant for dropout prevention.

2002-2005 American Indian Dropout Prevention Grant

- Over the course of the last three academic years, schools used their funding to employ various methods to address dropout issues

- The OPI will analyze and summarize critical elements and data of the 6 participating districts

- The OPI will draft a state-wide plan for dropout prevention to be disseminated for review.

OPI **Montana Office of Public Instruction**
Linda McCulloch Superintendent   www.opi.mt.gov

Dropout Prevention Grant

Heart Butte HS

- Funded a Dropout Prevention Coordinator and Retention Aid, Credit Recovery teacher, and research committee.
- Each year sent 12 at-risk students to the MIEA conference to attend workshops and lectures on skill building and leadership.

Poplar HS

- Extended its middle school and high school credit recovery program
- Financed youth leadership activities such as, collaborating with Fort Peck Dept. of Law and Justice to host a youth leadership camp for adolescents.
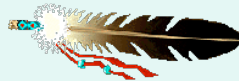
Dropout Prevention Grant

Browning HS

- Created the Blackfeet Learning Academy and the Blackfeet Academy Wilderness Adventure Program to keep at-risk students actively engaged in their education over the summer, build self-esteem and leadership skills.

- Dropout Prevention Committee developed a homeroom system designed to provide individualized instruction and additional academic assistance to at-risk students.

Lame Deer HS

- Provided a teacher and coordinator for its alternative school program which will expand to accommodate additional students for the upcoming academic year.
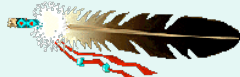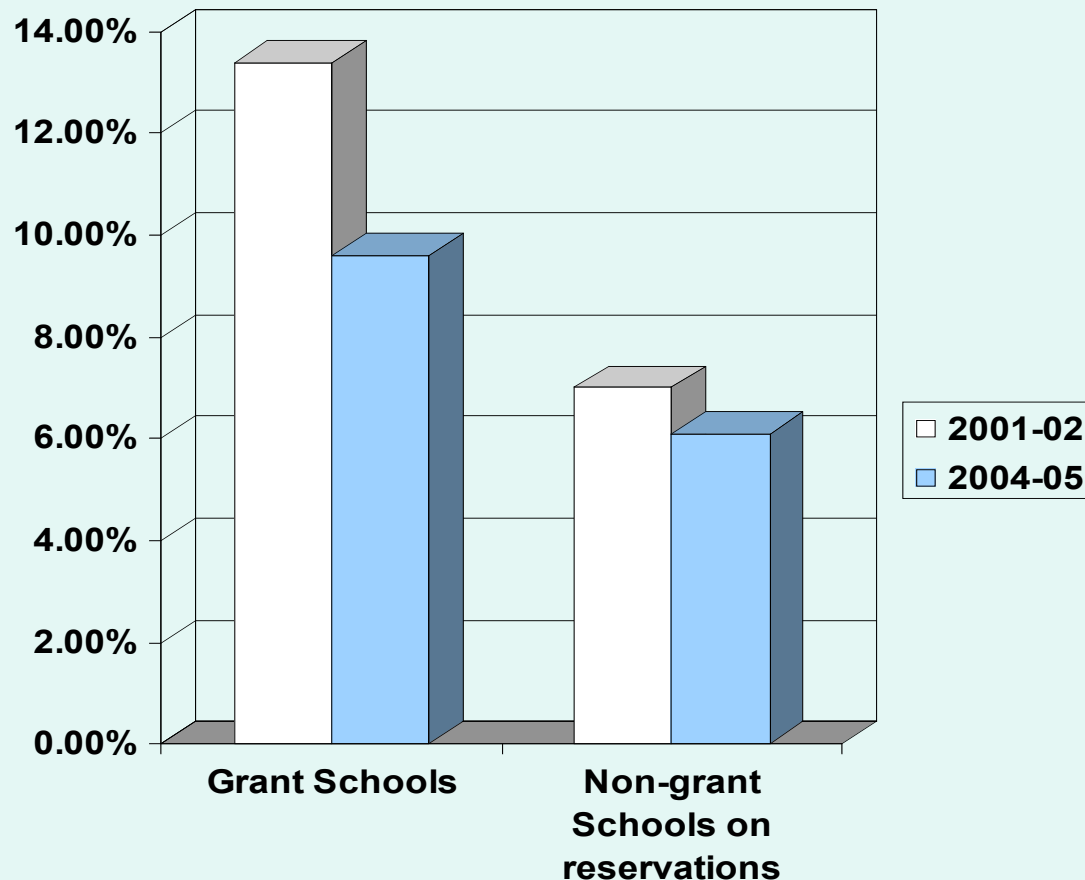
Dropout Prevention Grant

Rocky Boy HS

- Funded Culture Based Learning Program where local elders share their knowledge of the Chippewa Cree language, people, geography, culture, and customs with at-risk youth.

- Math Discovery curriculum for grades 7-12, a Cultural Counseling Program, and after-school and summer credit recovery programs.

Box Elder HS

- Improved student academic achievement and student retention through a formal mentoring program, the development and implementation of a leadership model for students, professional development, and data tracking.

OPI Montana Office of Public Instruction
Linda McCulloch Superintendent   www.opi.mt.gov

American Indian Dropout Prevention Grant
2001-02 & 2004-05 Comparison Data

Legend:
- 2001-02
- 2004-05

Categories: Grant Schools, Non-grant Schools on reservations

Y-axis: 0.00% to 14.00%

- The average total school dropout rate change from 2001-2004 for schools participating in the grant was a <u>decrease</u> of 4%

- The average total school dropout rate change for non-participating schools on reservations over the same time period was a decrease of 1%

- All schools on a reservation had an average dropout rate of 7.2% in 2004-05, as compared to the 1.9% rate of white students in Montana
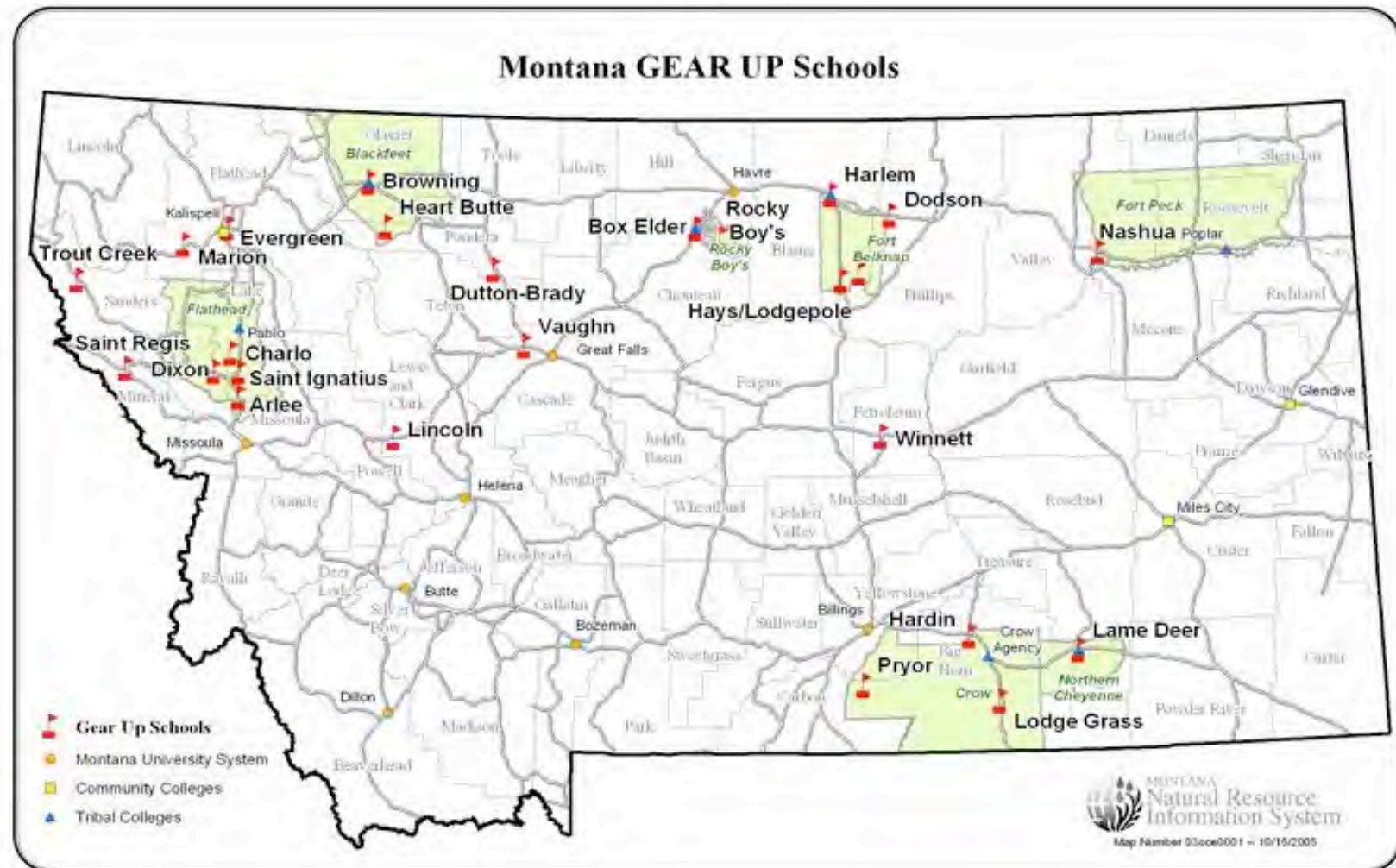
OPI Montana Office of Public Instruction
Linda McCulloch Superintendent   www.opi.mt.gov

What Can We Do? –
Dropout Prevention Strategies for American Indian Students

1. Systemic renewal

2. Increase school – community collaboration

3. Family engagement

4. Provide safe learning environments

5. Drug and alcohol abuse prevention

6. Early childhood education

7. Early literacy development

Montana GEAR UP Grant

Gaining **E**arly **A**wareness & **R**eadiness for **U**ndergraduate **P**rograms

Montana GEAR UP Schools

OPI Montana Office of Public Instruction
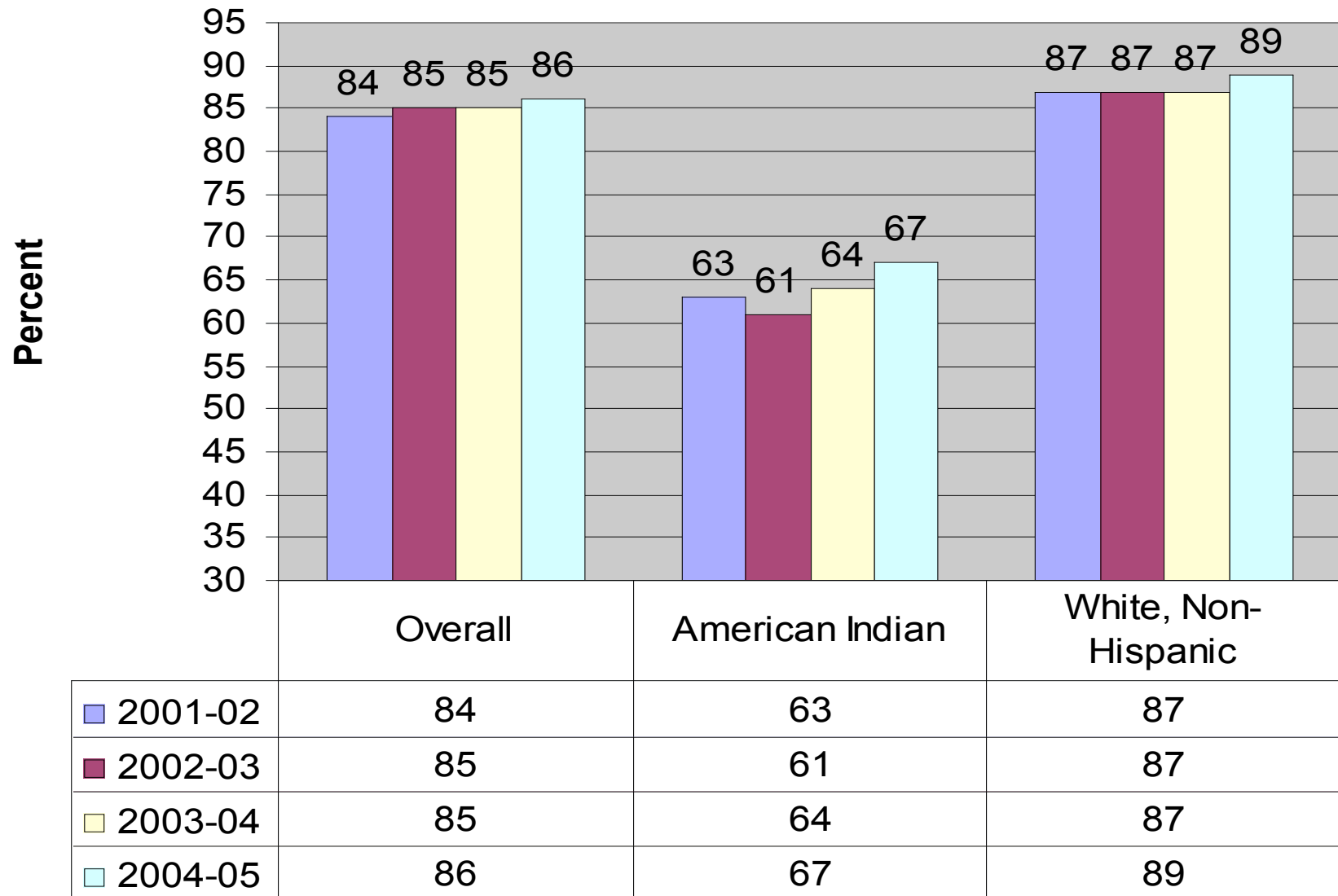Linda McCulloch Superintendent   www.opi.mt.gov

Montana GEAR UP Grant

Gaining **E**arly **A**wareness & **R**eadiness for **U**ndergraduate **P**rograms

- Currently, 24 schools participate in Montana GEAR UP. 16 are on a reservation.

- Served 759 7th graders (64% American Indian, 34% White, 2% Other)

- Awarded $1,000 Achievement Grants to 213 high school juniors to be used to pay for college tuition

- Awarded more than a half a million dollars in Pathways Scholarships, valued at up to $20,000 each, to 27 high school seniors to apply toward postsecondary education in Montana.

Montana Completion Rates 2002-03 to 2004-05

	Overall	American Indian	White, Non-Hispanic
■ 2001-02	84	63	87
■ 2002-03	85	61	87
□ 2003-04	85	64	87
□ 2004-05	86	67	89

OPI **Montana Office of Public Instruction**
Linda McCulloch Superintendent   www.opi.mt.gov

Increasing Graduation Rates

- **Full-Time kindergarten**
  - Included in the 2007 School Funding Legislative Budget Proposals. OPI will also present a bill in the 2007 Legislature

- **Lower class size**
  - Inflation adjustment for BASE aid and Quality Educator to assist schools in this effort

- **Increase reading proficiency**
  - Reading First administration, Adult Basic and Literacy Education included in budget, READ Montana! Initiative

- **Increase math proficiency**
  - Title I, math and science partnership grants

- **Increase access to educational technology**

- **Strong collaboration between K-12 and Higher Education**
  - Kindergarten-College Committee, Assessment Alignment, dual enrollment, school counselors leadership, MUS writing implementation, professional educator preparation program standards, K-12 revision standards, applied academics, and career clusters

Increasing Graduation Rates

- **After-school, Summer, and mentoring programs**
- **Family, community, and Tribal participation**
  - Parenting classes, PIQE, and cooperation with Tribal Education Departments
- **Accurate reporting and data analysis**
  - e-Grants and Student Achievement System
- **Professional development focus on at-risk and American Indian students**
  - MBI Conference, Title I, Comprehensive system personnel development, High Priority Schools Institute, Call to Greatness Summit
- **Close the achievement gap for American Indian students**
  - Indian Education Division is working with School Support Teams to assist schools, in addition to reviewing and synthesizing data and research to provide support and resources to schools
- **Indian Education for All**
  - Providing culturally relevant curriculum

Student Achievement System

- Enrollment and demographic information for all students attending Montana public schools
- Scores on statewide assessments
- Information for determining a school's 'Adequate Yearly Progress Report" required by the No Child Left Behind Act
- Student dropout information
- Information needed for serving students with disabilities
- Participation of students in federal and state grant programs